



Community Appearance Commission

Minutes November 4, 2009

The regular meeting of the Salisbury Community Appearance Commission was called to order Wednesday, November 4, 2009, at 4 p.m. by Barbara Perry, Chair, in the Council Chambers, 217 South Main Street, Salisbury, North Carolina. The following members were present and absent:

Present: Connie Baker, Suzanne Casey, Greta Connor, Diane Gibbs, Barbara Lawther, Sean Meyers, Barbara Perry, Sara Robinson, Bill Safrit and Tom Wolpert

Absent: Sue McHugh

Staff: Chris Branham and Lynn Raker

Guests: Mark Lewis and Maggie Blackwell

The minutes of the October 7, 2009, meeting were approved as submitted.

GUEST PRESENTATION

There was a subcommittee meeting regarding Long Street. Chris Branham, Code Services Manager, made a presentation outlining what has been discussed.

- City staff performed a windshield survey. Mark Martin's crew in the Landscape Division (A division of the Public Services Department) will clean up some of the overgrowth along the sidewalks on N. Long Street.
- Regarding nuisance housing in the area, contact has been initiated with property owners. There is a 30-day response process.
- Joe Morris is working on long-term improvements. He will check city ordinances regarding outdoor storage in the area.
- Salisbury Police Department will work on specifics pertaining to their department.
- At the request of Greta Connor, Chris will look at a house at the corner of Kenly and Long.

CAC Comments

- ❖ Sean Meyers reported that there is an ongoing yard sale at one of the properties which used to be a gas station. Chris is checking on the zoning of this property.
- ❖ Houses on Eleventh Street are in poor condition and the decay is creeping outward.
- ❖ The vehicles Tom Wolpert has been following on Council Street have been tagged. There was a discussion on vehicles parked in residential areas. Salisbury follows state statutes.
- ❖ The Julian Road /Klumac/S. Main entrance into Salisbury has a fenced area containing equipment that is overgrown. There is a burned-out building in this area, too. Apparently there is an issue with the railroad. The owner has had plans for the property for 2-3 years. Chris will follow up.
- ❖ Barbara Perry proposed a study of the Long Street Corridor and its many issues such as transportation, appearance, social and cultural issues, housing, and land use.
- ❖ Mark Lewis visited Green Hills, along with Joe Morris, last Friday at the request of one of its residents. He observed that the infrastructure was not too bad, but the housing was. There is a church in poor condition in the neighborhood. Chris and Fire Chief Parnell will look at the housing conditions and report back next month.
- ❖ Several properties in Green Hills are not located in either Salisbury or E. Spencer but are in Rowan County. Chris will follow up on this.

Bill Safrit made a MOTION to adopt a study of the Long Street Corridor. Sara Robinson seconded the motion with all members voting AYE. Barbara Perry will speak to Preston Mitchell to see if Planning Board has an interest in this study.

Bill Safrit said that he has observed serious problems with 416 N. Fulton Street. Chris said that the owner lives on Park Avenue. This house in question does not have working plumbing. It is in the 90-day process (second phase of the minimum housing process). They have already had a hearing that Chris Branham attended.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Neighborhoods & Education Committee

- The Neighborhood Leaders Alliance meeting was held successfully October 29 at One Water Street at 4 p.m. Twenty-eight people attended the meeting.

There was a healthy discussion about landlords, absentee landlords, and housing. It was suggested that the NLA meet more frequently than twice a year. The possibility of

establishing a Housing Commission was discussed. Housing inspections would improve the quality of life in Salisbury. Building inspections are currently done by the County. There was a discussion regarding how other cities in our area handle the problem of deteriorating housing.

Subcommittee meetings on how to establish a housing commission are scheduled for December 15 at noon, January 8, 2010 at noon and a presentation to City Council with the CAC goals possibly January 19, 2010. This will make it possible to include the issue at the City Council retreat February 2010.

Art in Public Places

Barbara Perry updated the Commission on the activities of the Salisbury Public Art Committee.

- The Cotton Mills Corner is completed. The dedication is set for November 21 at 11:30 at the corner of Fisher and Church Streets. Wachovia will sponsor the food.
- Plans for the new sculpture show are underway. The sculpture "Pipeline" by Jim Gallucci has been sold to the Fiber to the Home Service Center.

Suzanne Casey asked if sculpture could be installed outside of Downtown like at Hurley Park. Barbara Perry will make that recommendation to the Public Art Committee.

Landscape of the Month

Diane Gibbs reported that there were a few LOM nominations since the last meeting. Typically the season ends by now. The committee will hold these nominations for the spring. The LOM signs will need to be repaired.

Tom Wolpert said there is good landscaping along the roadside next to Wal-Mart.

Grants

Bill Safrit and Lynn Raker reported that applications are pending and the committee will meet again before the end of the year.

Awards

The CAC/Tree Board awards luncheon will take place February 18, 2010, at the Rowan Museum in the Messinger Room from 12 until 1:30 p.m.

The Committee will meet Friday November 13 at noon.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Barbara Perry thanked Mark Lewis for his support of the CAC. He will be missed and we hope he will continue to engage the CAC. Mr. Lewis suggested that Maggie Blackwell will be happy to champion the CAC.
- Barbara Perry congratulated Maggie Blackwell on her win to the City Council.
- There was a discussion on signs.
- Barbara Perry is going to open her home at 131 West Bank Street for the yearly Christmas meeting. Barbara's terms on the CAC will soon be over (March 2010).
- The CAC Goals will be our only order of business for our next meeting.

It has been a good year with many successes. The meeting was adjourned. The next regular CAC meeting will be December 2, 2009.